



# Guidance

## **GCSE Subject Level Guidance for Physical Education**

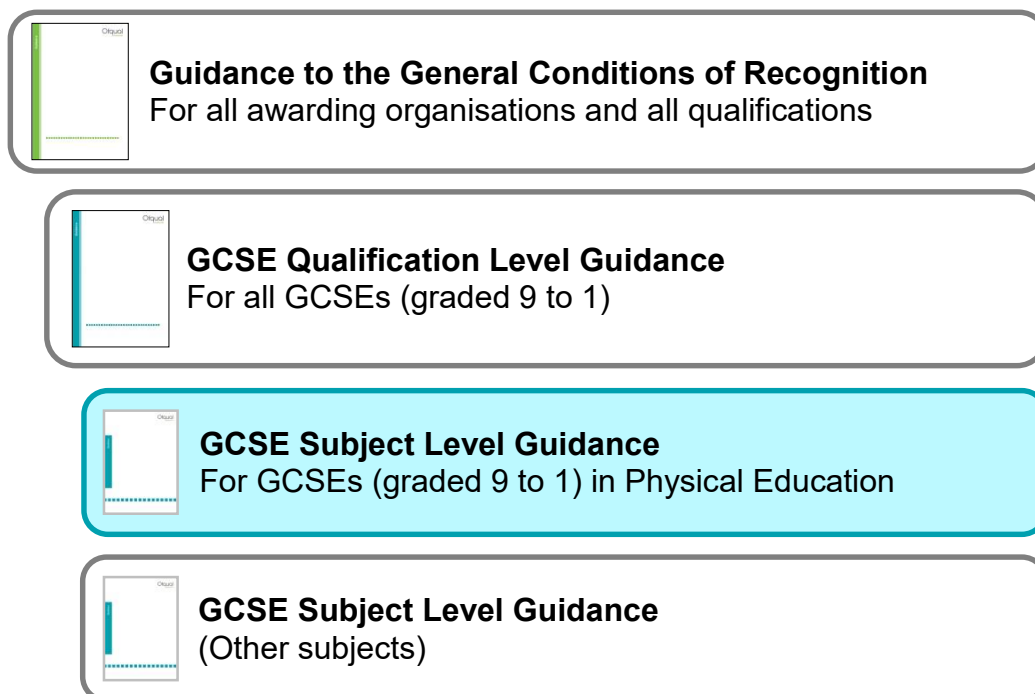
May 2016

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## Introduction

This document (highlighted in the figure below) is part of a suite of documents which outlines our guidance for awarding organisations offering GCSE Qualifications.



This document sets out guidance which applies to all GCSE Qualifications (graded from 9 to 1) in Physical Education. It supports the *GCSE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Physical Education*.<sup>1</sup>

This document constitutes guidance for the purposes of section 153 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (the '2009 Act') and Condition GCSE(Physical Education)1.

An awarding organisation has a legal obligation under the 2009 Act to have regard to this guidance, where relevant, in relation to each GCSE Qualification in Physical Education that it makes available or proposes to make available. Condition GCSE(Physical Education)1 imposes the same obligation in respect of the guidance below which is issued under that Condition.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-physical-education](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-9-to-1-subject-level-conditions-and-requirements-for-physical-education)

An awarding organisation should use the guidance in this document to help it understand how to comply with the *GCSE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Physical Education*.

## **Revisions to this document**

We have revised this document since it was originally published (see Appendix 1 for details), most recently in May 2016.

The May 2016 version of this document replaces all previous versions of *GCSE Subject Level Guidance for Physical Education* with effect from 5.01pm on Friday 27 May 2016.

It incorporates amended guidance on assessment objectives which reflects the different assessment objectives for GCSE short course qualifications in Physical Education.

## **Guidance set out in this document**

This document provides guidance on assessment objectives for GCSE Qualifications (graded 9 to 1) in Physical Education.
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## Guidance on assessment objectives for GCSE Qualifications in Physical Education

Condition GCSE(Physical Education)1.2 allows us to specify requirements and guidance relating to assessment objectives for GCSE Qualifications in Physical Education.

We published our requirements in relation to assessment objectives in *GCSE Subject Level Conditions and Requirements for Physical Education*, and reproduce them in the table below.

	Objective	Weighting
<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	25%
<b>AO2</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	20%
<b>AO3</b>	Analyse and evaluate the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport	15%
<b>AO4 (GCSE short course)</b>	Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport	40%
<b>AO4 (GCSE qualifications other than short course)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport</li> <li>■ Analyse and evaluate performance</li> </ul>	40%

We set out below our guidance for the purposes of Condition GCSE(Physical Education)1.2. This guidance explains how we expect awarding organisations to interpret these assessment objectives in terms of:

- the discrete 'strands' within each of the assessment objectives;
- the discrete 'elements' within each assessment objective and its strands that questions and tasks could target and/or seek to credit;

- the coverage expectations, such as in relation to the different elements within each assessment objective and how those elements should be sampled over time; and
- the key areas of emphasis in each assessment objective and the particular meaning for the subject of any key terms and phrases used; defined terms are shown in bold text, followed by their definitions.

In line with the obligations set out in Condition GCSE(Physical Education)1.2, we expect awarding organisations to be able to demonstrate how they have had regard to this guidance. For example, an awarding organisation could map how it has regard to the guidance as it:

- develops its sample assessment materials;
- delivers the qualification;
- develops and applies its approach to sampling the elements into which the assessment objectives are divided; and
- monitors the qualification to make sure it addresses all elements appropriately.

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport			25%
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	This AO is a single element.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Full coverage in each set of assessments<sup>2</sup> (but not in every assessment).</li> <li>■ No more than 15% of the total marks for the qualification should reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation.<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Questions/tasks may target knowledge in isolation, but understanding should normally be assessed in combination with knowledge.</li> <li>■ Questions/tasks may target performance and/or involvement in combination or individually.</li> <li>■ Questions/tasks may target sport and/or physical activity in combination or individually.</li> </ul>

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<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this guidance, a 'set of assessments' means the assessments to be taken by a particular Learner for a GCSE Qualification in Physical Education. For clarity, the assessments taken by Learners may vary, depending on any possible routes through the qualification.

<sup>3</sup> Marks which 'reward demonstrating knowledge in isolation' means any mark awarded solely for recalling facts or other knowledge that is part of the specification. It does not include marks awarded for selecting appropriate knowledge (for example, to evidence an argument), or for applying knowledge to a particular context.

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport			20%
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	This AO is a single element.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The emphasis here is on the ability of the Learner to apply their knowledge and understanding to make connections between theory and practice.</li> <li>In this context, knowledge and understanding are both prerequisites for application, and should be assessed together.</li> <li>Questions/tasks may target performance and/or involvement in combination or individually.</li> <li>Questions/tasks may target physical activity and/or sport in combination or individually.</li> </ul>



AO3: Analyse and evaluate the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport			15%
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	1a – Analyse the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment).</li> <li>■ Awarding organisations should justify the balance between elements 1a and 1b in their assessment strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Questions/tasks may target performance and/or involvement in combination or individually.</li> <li>■ Questions/tasks may target physical activity and/or sport in combination or individually.</li> </ul>
	1b – Evaluate the factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity and sport.		

AO4 (GCSE short course): Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport			40%
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
n/a	This strand is a single element.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the context of this assessment objective, <b>demonstrate</b> means the practical demonstration of skills and techniques, in a performance.</li> <li><b>Skills</b> and <b>techniques</b> are interchangeable terms, and refer to those outlined in paragraph 7 of the document published by the Secretary of State entitled 'Physical Education GCSE short course subject content',<sup>4</sup> document reference DFE-00057-2016.</li> </ul>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-physical-education-short-course>

AO4 (GCSE qualifications other than short course):			40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport</li> <li>■ Analyse and evaluate performance</li> </ul>			
Strands	Elements	Coverage	Interpretations and definitions
<b>1 – Demonstrate and apply relevant skills and techniques in physical activity and sport.</b>	This strand is a single element.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Full coverage in each set of assessments (but not in every assessment).</li> <li>■ Awarding organisations should justify the balance between elements 2a and 2b in their assessment strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In the context of this assessment objective, <b>demonstrate</b> means the practical demonstration of skills and techniques, in a performance.</li> <li>■ <b>Skills</b> and <b>techniques</b> are interchangeable terms, and refer to those outlined in paragraph 16 of the document published by the Secretary of State entitled 'Physical Education GCSE subject content'<sup>5</sup> document reference DFE-00697-2014.</li> <li>■ Analyse and evaluate should include theoretical content.</li> <li>■ Within strand 2, Learners should be expected to make appropriate recommendations to bring about improvement(s), but should not be assessed on whether or not improvement occurs.</li> </ul>
<b>2 – Analyse and evaluate performance.</b>	2a – Analyse performance.		
	2b – Evaluate performance.		

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-physical-education](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-physical-education)

## Appendix 1: Revisions to this document

The table below sets out when the *GCSE Subject Level Guidance for Physical Education* initially came into force and when it was subsequently revised.

Revisions	Date in force
Guidance on assessment objectives for GCSE Qualifications in Physical Education (amended)	27 May 2016
First published	8 July 2015

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